

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 04634 01 OF 02 142140Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 /153 W
-----122866 150111Z /64

R 142029Z NOV 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7409
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 4634

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, XF
SUBJECT: AMB. HERZOG SUBMITS LETTER ON SOUTH LEBANON

1. ISRAELI PERM. REP. HERZOG REQUESTED THAT A LETTER
DEALING WITH THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON BE CIRCULATED
AS A UN DOCUMENT OVER THE WEEKEND. THE LETTER IS REPRODUCED
BELOW.

2. QUOTE:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRTY-SECOND SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 31
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1977 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 04634 01 OF 02 142140Z

ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO DRAW
YOUR ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE LEBANESE BORDER.

FOLLOWING THE INTERNECINE ARAB SLAUGHTER WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE
IN LEBANON OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH OF
THE COUNTRY BORDERING ON ISRAEL HAS REMAINED UNSETTLED. PLO FORCES

IN THAT AREA HAVE ATTEMPTED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO ANNIHILATE THE LEBANESE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THERE, NUMBERING SOME 50,000 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO THE DEFENCE OF THE LIVES OF THOSE CHRISTIANS. AFTER SERIOUS OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE OVER THE SUMMER BETWEEN PLO AND THE CHRISTIANS, A CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ENTERED INTO FORCE ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1977.

NEGOTIATIONS WERE SET IN TRAIN FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PLO FORCES FROM THE AREA AND FOR THE RE-ENTRY OF THE RECONSTITUTED LEBANESE ARMY INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON. VARIOUS ELEMENTS WITHIN PLO DECLARED THEMSELVES OPPOSED TO THE CEASE-FIRE AND ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE STEPS TO SABOTAGE IT. THESE ELEMENTS, WHICH APPARENTLY INCLUDED FATAH, THE PRINCIPLE ORGANIZATION IN PLO, AND THE POPULAR FRONT", WHICH IS PART OF THE SO-CALLED "REJECTIONIST FRONT", SOUGHT TO REACTIVATE MILITARY ACTION IN THE AREA NOT ONLY TO PREVENT THE LEBANESE ARMY FROM RE-ESTABLISHING ITSELF OVER SOVEREIGN LEBANESE TERRITORY, BUT ALSO TO PREJUDICE THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

TO THIS END, PLO ELEMENTS ACTED SUBVERSIVELY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND ALSO, FROM THE END OF SEPTEMBER TO THE BEGINNING OR NOVEMBER, LAUCHED EIGHT ROCKET ATTACKS ACROSS THE BORDER WITH ISRAEL ON NORTHERN CIVILIAN TARGETS AT SAFED, KIRYAT SHMONA, NAHARIYA, ACRE, METULLA AND RAMAT ALMA. SEVERAL CIVILIANS WERE INJURED IN THESE ATTACKS AND CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO PROPERTY. OVER THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 04634 01 OF 02 142140Z

LAST 10 DAYS, THE PLO HAS ALSO STEPPED UP THEIR ATTACKS ON THE CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, USING INTER ALIA, ROCKETS AND ARTILLERY. THEN ON 6 NOVEMBER 1977, A KATYUSA ROCKET ATTACK USING 122 MILLIMETRE ROCKETS WITH A RANGE OF 22 KILOMETRES, WAS MUNTED AGAINST THE TOWN OF NAHARIYA. IN THIS ATTACK, TWO VILIVANS WERE KILLED. ON 8 NOVEMBER, A FURTHER BARRAGE OF 22 KATYUSA ROCKETS WAS LAUCHED AGAINST NAHARIYA, WITH THE RESULT THAT ONE WOMEN WAS KILLED AND FIVE WERE INJURED.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN THE LIGHT OF INTELLIGENCE INDICATING THAT THE NUMBER OF SUCH ATTACKS ON ISRAELI CIVILIAN TARGETS WAS TO INCREASE IN SCOPE AND INTENSITY, THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WAS LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO STRIKE AT THE SOURCES OF FIRE WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE VIOLENCE AND THE SERIOUS DANGER OF JEOPARDIZING THE CURRENT MOVES TOWARDS ACCOMODATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES TO THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

ACCORDINGLY, ON 9 NOVEMBER AN AERIAL BOMBARDMENT WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCES AGAINST THE FOLLOWING SOURCES OF ATTACK:

(A) RAS AL-BAYDE, THE TERRORIST HEADQUARTERS AND AMMUNITION BASE IN SOUTH-WESTERN LEBANON;

(B) TEL ARMIS, A TERRORIST BASE IN THE AREA FROM WHICH THE KATYUSHAS SHELLS WERE FIRED AGAINST NAHARIYA ON 8 NOVEMBER;

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 04634 02 OF 02 150058Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 /153 W
-----124458 150110Z /64

R 142029Z NOV 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 4634

(C) AL AZIYA, A TERRORIST TRAINING CAMP;

(D) AL HANIYA, A TERRORIST CAMP, AND ARMS AND WEAPONS STORE;

(E) AN AMMUNITION STORE NORTH OF BURT AL SHAMLI;

(F) WADI AL ASWAD, THE TERRORISTS' PRINCIPAL AMMUNITION STORE IN SOUTH-WESTERN LEBANON.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT, IN THE COURSE OF THIS ACTION, THE AMMUNITION STORES WERE HIT AND RESULTED IN EXTENSIVE CHAIN EXPLOSIONS, THUS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE AND APPARENTLY LEADING TO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. THE FAULT FOR THIS LIES ENTIRELY WITH THE PLO TERRORIST GROUPS, WHICH AS A MATTER OF POLICY LOCATE THEIR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN OR NEAR CIVILIAN CENTRES IN THE HOPE OF INHIBITING ACTION AGAINST THEM. THIS FACT WAS TESTIFIED TO BY THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 14 UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 04634 02 OF 02 150058Z

OCTOBER 1976:

"FOR YEARS, (THE PLO) STEADILY INCREASED THE INFLUX OF ARMS INTO LEBANON - ARMS OF ALL CALIBRES AND FROM VARIOUS SOURCES. THEY TRANSFORMED MOST - IF NOT ALL - OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS INTO MILITARY BASTIONS AROUND OUR MAJOR CITIES, IN THE HEART OF OUR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRES, AND IN THE VICINITY OF LARGE CIVILIAN CONGLOMERATIONS". 1/

SINCE THEM, CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM LEADERS IN LEBANON HAVE BEEN EMPHATIC IN THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE PLO PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH OF LEBANON. FOR EXAMPLE, CAMILLE CHAMOUN SAID THE FOLLOWING ON 22 SEPTEMBER 1977:

"THE ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH IS THE REASON FOR THE INCIDENTS AND THE ACTS OF HOSTILITY AGAINST LEBANON. THE AGREEMENTS WHEREBY PALESTINIANS SHOULD HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE SOUTH HAVE NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED UNTIL NOW BECAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION OF ARAFAT".

PIERRE GEMAYEL, SPEAKING ON THE PHALANGIST RADIO ON 9 SEPTEMBER 1977, SAID THAT:

"ONE THING IS REQUIRED A THAT THE PALESTINIANS RETURN TO THEIR CAMPS WITHOUT CONDITIONS, AND WITHOUT HAVING ANY FURTHER MILITARY OR POLITICAL INFLUENCE ON LEBANESE TERRITORY".

MOREOVER ON 15 AUGUST 1977, THE BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AL-ANWAR QUOTED KAZIM AL-KHALIL, A SHIITE MUSLIM MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE TYRE REGION, AS SAYING:

"IT IS THE MASSIVE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH WHICH LED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 04634 02 OF 02 150058Z

TO THE CRISIS IN THE SOUTH".

I TAKE THIS OPPORUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL REMAINS WILLING TO PLAY ITS PART IN MAINTAINING PEACEFUL CONDITIONS ALONG ITS BORDER WITH LEBANON ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. IT MUST BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ISRAEL RESERVES ITS RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENCE.

I SHOULD BE GREATFUL IF YOUR EXCELLENCY WOULD HAVE THIS LETTER CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNDER AGENDA ITEM 31 ANB OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

UNQUOTE

1/ OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRTY-FIRST
SESSION, PLENARY MEETINGS, 32ND MEETINGS, PARA. 64.

LEONARD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN04634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770421-0494
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771160/aaaabzui.tel
Line Count: 231
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9de7641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 596386
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMB. HERZOG SUBMITS LETTER ON SOUTH LEBANON
TAGS: PORG, PDIP, XF, UN, (HERZOG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9de7641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009